

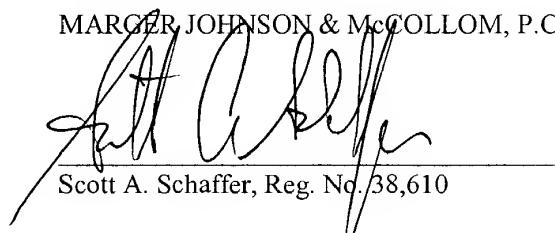
REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-13 and 22-32 have been allowed. The Examiner has objected to claims 14-16 and 18-21 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph on the grounds that claim 14 includes a feature whereby a "secondary game is coupled to the secondary game controller" and that it is unclear how a secondary *game* (which the Examiner does not consider a device) can be coupled to a *controller*. Claims 15-16 and 18-21 depend from claim 14 but would be allowable provided the §112, second paragraph rejection of claim 14 is overcome. The claim has been amended for clarity and now reads "a secondary game adapted to be initiated responsive to signals from the secondary game controller." The amended claim is supported in the specification and should address the Examiner's concern of definiteness. Applicant thus kindly requests reconsideration and removal of the objection.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-16 and 18-32 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In The Claims

Please amend the claim as follows:

14. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for selectively operating a plurality of machines over a network, said apparatus comprising:

a plurality of gaming machines for playing a primary game thereon;

an actuator coupled to each of the gaming machines for selective activation of the primary game by a player at a respective gaming machine;

a secondary game controller;

a network coupled to the gaming devices and the controller for exchanging data between the secondary game controller and the gaming devices;

[a secondary game coupled to the secondary game controller for displaying the secondary game responsive to signals from the secondary game controller] a secondary game adapted to be initiated responsive to signals from the secondary game controller;

wherein the secondary game controller monitors the activity of the gaming devices over the network and causes the secondary game to initiate when an operating parameter meets a predetermined criterion; the apparatus further including

means for selecting one of the plurality of game machines when the operating parameter meets the criterion; and

means on said selected machine for initiating said secondary game, wherein said secondary game controller applies a first bonus to the selected machine responsive to an outcome of the secondary game.

